bathroom fittings, tiles, electric bulbs & tubes and stationery items.

**Discussion of Cuban Trade Delegation**

781. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cuban Trade Delegation visited India recently to have discussion with his Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) which are the foodgrains as requested by the delegation for import to Cuba have been exported and also the quantity thereof;

(d) what is the price of different qualities of rice that we have sold to different countries last year; and

(e) what is the price of rice sold to different Latin American Countries and what are the terms offered to Cubans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A Cuban trade delegation visited India during February, 1992 with a request for supply of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat and 1 lakh tonne of rice to Cuba. It has not been possible to accede to the Cuban request for the present.

(d) The minimum export price of rice sold to different countries during 1990-91 was Rs. 9,500/- PMT for Basmati and Rs. 6000/- per MT for Non-Basmati.

(e) The average unit value realisation of rice sold to Peru, Brazil and Panama have been Rs. 6070, Rs. 6030 and Rs. 6050 per MT respectively during 1991-92.

782. [*Transferred to the 13th March, 1992.*]

**Invitation of foreign companies into marine sector**

783. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and its agencies like MPEDA are actively inviting foreign companies into the marine sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many such deals would deplete our marine resources; and

(c) whether such deals are concluded after consultation and coordination with the nodal Ministry concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Indian EEZ has vast untapped resources.

(c) Yes, Sir. Decisions are taken after necessary consultation with all Ministries concerned.

**Import of rubber**

784. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any request for increasing the bench mark price of rubber;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal to import natural rubber; and

(d) if so, what is the quantum of rubber to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The existing Bench Mark Price of Rs. 21,450 per metric tonne for natural rubber (RMA-4 Grade) was fixed on 15th January, 1991. Subsequent to this, there have been representations from growers' Associations etc. for revising the Bench Mark Price. Accordingly, the Cost Accounts Branch (CAB) of the Ministry of Finance, who were advised to conduct a fresh cost study, have submitted their recommendations which are being processed in consultation with the concerned authorities.